statistical base of the Ninth Five Year Plan which will be placed before National Development Council shortly; and

(c) if so, what was the compulsion for changing the base year just at this juncture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Changes in the base year of calculation of macro-economic aggregates do not materially affect the calculations of the Five Year Plan since the macro-economic balances continue to be maintained. As a result, the parametric estimates can be suitably adjusted to take into account the adjustment in the base.

(c) Change of base year of the National Accounts Statistics is a regular periodic exercise to provide the correct picture of the economy.

Implementation of Developmental Schemes under MPLADS

*53. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the implementation of various development works under the MPs Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) has been very tardy in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main reasons therefor and remedial steps, if any being taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Some complaints of delay in implementation of works under MPLADS have been received. Some reasons for slow progress are : application of Model Code of Conduct during Elections of the Parliament, State Legislatures and Panchayati Raj Institutions, late receipt of recommendations from MPs, change in recommendation by MPs, non-availability of land etc. All the State Governments/UTs have been requested to issue instructions to all the concerned for prompt action and implementation of MPLADS works in accordance with the revised guidelines and also to ensure monitoring, supervision, coordination as outlined in these guidelines. All the District Collectors have also been asked to stipulate a time limit for the implementing agencies to complete the given work in a specific time frame depending upon nature of work and to take action against the implementing agencies in case of failure.

Inter-action meetings between the M.P.s and implementing officers like District Collectors have also been held on state level for some states.

Restriction on entry of Hong Kong

*54. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Hon Kong restricts Indians entry; visa needed for stay for over two weeks" that appeared in the *Times of India* dated the 19th Januanry, 1999;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of the new procedure adopted in that regard and remedy, if any, suggested?